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FOLDER *BIKINI - A Study of
The BIKINI People*

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Files

January 16, 1968

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TRIP REPORT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY - BIO-MED PROGRAM -
DECEMBER 1967

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Purpose

Since HAO is responsible for the liaison and coordination of the Bio-Medical activities in the Pacific, I made an orientation visit to several islands in the Trust Territory of the Pacific. The primary purpose was to become personally acquainted with the various Trust Territory and Contractor personnel who are associated with the AEC-Bio-Med Program and to become familiar with the location where these activities are being conducted.

Trip

Allan Smith, a member of the U. S. Public Health Service, and I departed Honolulu on Wednesday, December 6 at 1:30 a.m. and after crossing the international date line, arrived at Guam at 5:45 a.m., Thursday, December 7. At Guam I met Mr. Gordon Findley, the Guam Trust Territory Liaison Officer. Mr. Findley had made reservations for the flight from Guam to Saipan and furnished the necessary permits for entry into the Trust Territory. General discussions were held with Findley relative to his part in making arrangements for the annual Bio-Med Team's survey. Mr. Findley indicated that he had very little to do with the survey but had been called upon occasionally to provide liaison contacts and services for the team members with other contacts and points in the Mariana Islands.

I departed Guam at 4:30 p.m. December 7 and arrived at Saipan at 6:15 p.m. Upon arrival at Saipan, I was met by Mr. Ernest Libby, an employee of the Trust Territory and a regular member of the Bio-Med Survey Team party. Mr. Libby had made reservations at the only hotel and arranged for transportation there.

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The next morning, December 8, Mr. Libby picked me up at the hotel and took me to Capitol Hill where the Trust Territory Headquarters Offices are. The day was spent meeting and visiting the Trust Territory people who were members of the Survey Team and those furnishing support for the survey.

Mr. Libby introduced me to the following Trust Territory personnel: Dr. W. M. Peck, Director of Public Health Service Department; Mr. Harold Bernshock, Administration Officer for Public Health; Mr. Lester Arentzen, Director of Finance; Mr. William Sturgill, Director of Supply; Mr. William R. Norwood, High Commissioner; Dr. A. Hicking, Mr. Kosand Mizutoni. The discussions held with the above people were general and covered parts they played in participating in, and supporting the Bio-Med Survey. Dr. Peck (Dr. Luke Howe's replacement) stated that he hoped his schedule would allow him to accompany and participate in the forthcoming survey. I had hoped to meet Mr. James Cook, Transportation Officer, but was advised that he had passed away and his replacement had not yet been moved.

Mr. Norwood was extremely cordial and offered his assistance in assuring that I obtained the information and contacts I desired. He reiterated his particular interest in getting what information was available relative to the return of the natives to Bikini. I assured Mr. Norwood that when any information in this view was available, it would be passed on to him. He also asked if I had any information relative to Holmes & Narver hiring a token number of Ujelong natives as employees at Eniwetok. I advised Mr. Norwood we had no contract relationship with the Holmes & Narver people at Eniwetok since the work there was under the Air Force, but I had heard that H&N personnel people were discussing the hiring of some of these natives with the home office in Los Angeles, so possibly something may come of the discussion.

Mr. Libby was most hospitable and spent considerable time in giving me an orientation in the part the Trust Territory personnel played in the Bio-Med Survey. He amplified this data with considerable information of the Trust Territory and in particular the Marshall Islands.

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Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. I left Saipan and arrived at Guam at 6:30 p.m. The next morning, December 11, at 8:00 a.m. departed Guam with Kwajalein as destination. After a short stopover at Truk, arrived at Kwajalein Sunday at 4:00 p.m. December 10, again crossing the international date line.

In Kwajalein following people were met:

Mr. Frank Granich, Bio-Med Support Contact, Global Associates;
Mr. Don McAfee, Manager for Global Associates;
Mr. Gene Sims, Operations Supervisor, Global Associates;
Mr. Walter Ownby, Kwajalein Liaison Officer, Trust Territory;
Col. Frank Healy, Commander, Kwajalein Test Site.

Mr. Granich went through the support requirements which they were furnishing for the coming survey and stated all the items that Dr. Conard had requested were ready on Kwajalein. The water containers had been cleansed and checked. The boat and motor had been checked out and were operable for use to and from Ebeye. Mr. Granich made necessary arrangements for me to go on to Eniwetok, via Northwest, and also a trip to Ebeye and other islands on the Kwajalein Atolls.

A discussion with Mr. Ownby indicated that he was finalizing his part of the arrangements for the forthcoming Bio-Med Team's survey. He indicated scheduling of the Army plane for Trust Territory usage had been giving them problems and that it might be well to look for some other back up transportation for the team to Majuro. At this time, Mr. Ownby was trying to schedule the Army plane for a trip to Majuro for some architects from Honolulu and if successful, I could accompany them to Majuro. This would result in an over night stop rather than taking the scheduled Trust Territory plane which meant that I would have to stay in Majuro for a week. Mr. Ownby was not successful in getting the use of an Army plane for this trip as the planes were being reserved for Army use only or for an emergency.

I left Kwajalein the next day and went to Eniwetok. While at Eniwetok I contacted Mr. Ed Pratt, Manager for Holmes & Narver. We discussed the H&N support activities to the University of Hawaii for operation of the Eniwetok Marine Biology Laboratory.

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No University of Hawaii personnel were on the island, so I obtained the keys for the Laboratory Building from Holmes & Narver Security and toured the Laboratory Building. The facility and equipment were well kept and appeared to be in good operable condition.

I departed Eniwetok and returned to Kwajalein on December 12. The 13th and 14th was spent on Kwajalein and visiting the Island of Ebeye and the other islands in the Atoll. During this time and as mentioned above, discussions were held with various people of the Trust Territory, Global Associates and Army personnel. Departed Kwajalein, December 15, via Northwest and arrived Honolulu that same evening.

Conclusion

The trip allowed me to make personal contacts and get a first hand "feel" for the details, problems, and ramifications which are a part of doing business in the South Pacific. By this direct contact, I gained basic experience and knowledge which could not possibly be obtained from only reviewing the files. Thus, I feel the trip was most beneficial to me and HAO in performing a liaison function for the AEC-Bio-Med Program.

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